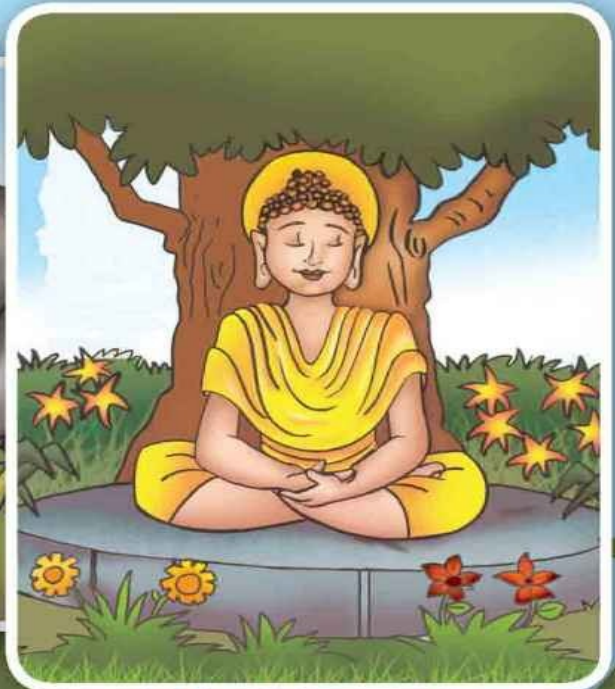


Classic Tales

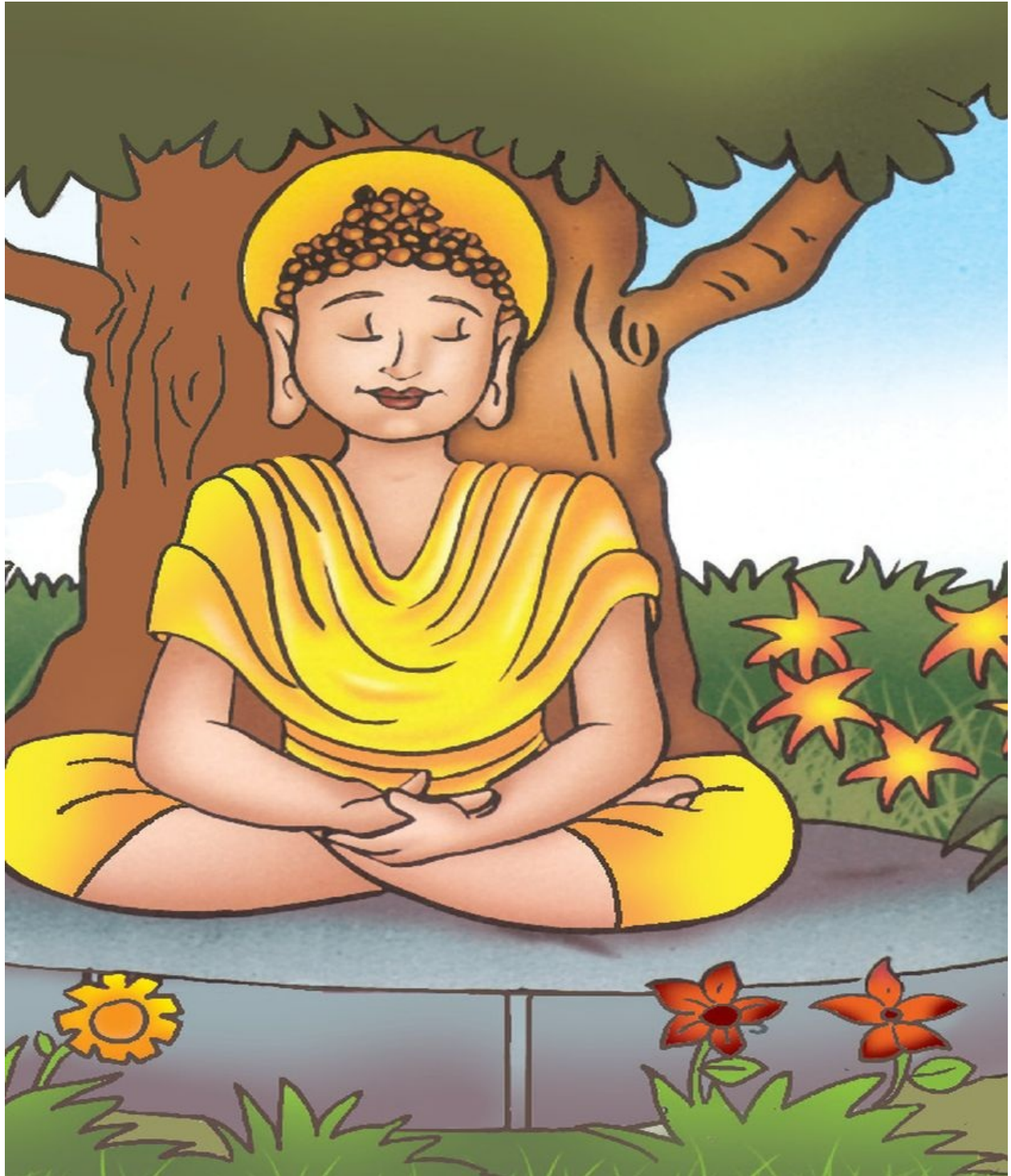
Jataka Tales



MAPLE PRESS
Bringing stories to every child

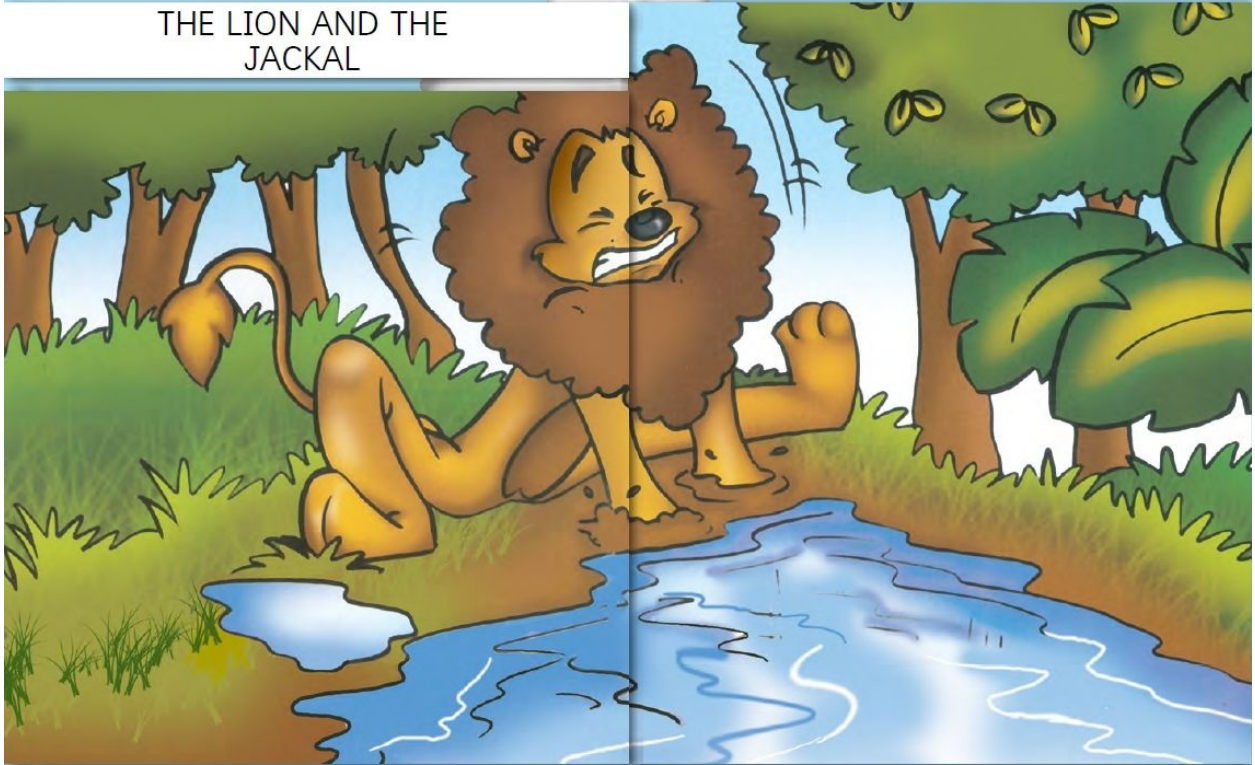
The Jataka tales are very old tales. People have been hearing them for several years. They teach us the correct way to behave, and they also teach us good manners.

These stories are about the past birth of The Buddha. These stories are told so that a child can learn the lessons of truth, gentleness and good behaviour. Here, we have a small collection of these stories.



Once upon a time, there lived a lion in a jungle. One day, when he had gone to drink water in a stream, his feet got stuck in the wet muddy bank of the stream and he could not come out. Nobody was around to help him and he had to stay without food for several days.

THE LION AND THE JACKAL



A few days later, a kind jackal came by. The jackal dug a way out of the mud and with some extra help from the lion, the jackal helped the lion to get out of the muddy bank of the stream. The lion was now free.

The lion was very grateful and thanked the jackal for saving his life. The lion asked the jackal to live close to him and promised to feed the jackal whenever he caught food.



So, the jackal started living with the lion and they also started sharing their hunt. Soon, they got married and had cubs and kid jackals.



After some time, the lioness grew bored of the friendship of the jackal and her husband. The lioness told this to her cubs. They told this to the kid jackals and the kid jackals told the lady jackal. The lady jackal then told this to her husband, the jackal.



The jackal went to the lion and asked him that if the lion did not want the jackal to stay with him, he could have told the jackal long time back.

The lion was surprised hearing this. He told the jackal that he did

not hate the jackal. He then said, 'Do not worry my friend, I will talk to the lioness'.



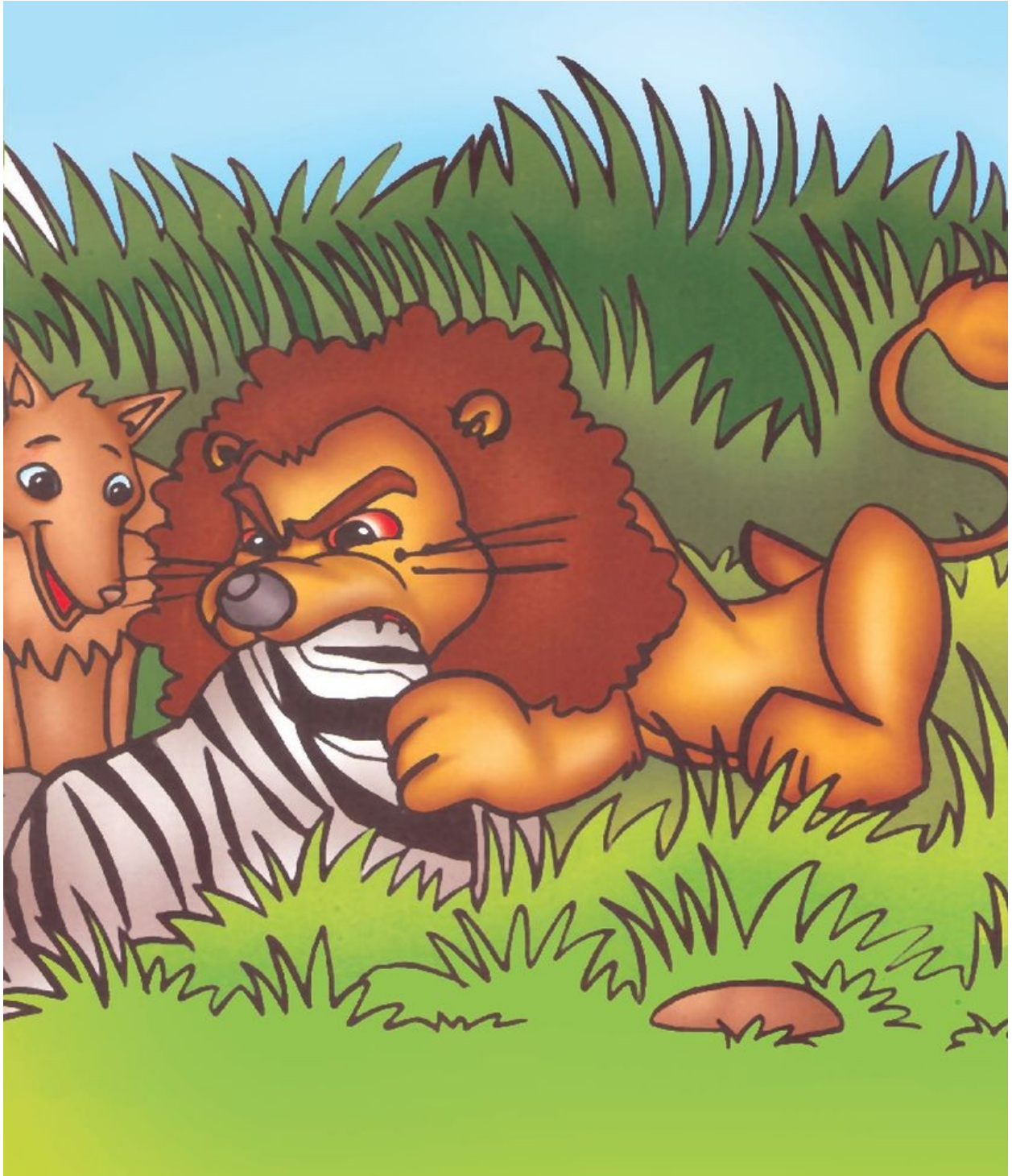
But the wise jackal then said, 'Friend, I know you are speaking the truth. But, our families may not like our friendship. So, let us stay

apart and meet as often as possible as friends. We may even hunt together at times'.



The lion agreed and the two families started living separately. The jackal and the lion remained as close friends and also went to hunt

together all the times.



So all you kids reading this story, remember that your family might not always understand your friendship.



THE PIGEON AND THE CROW



Once upon a time, there was a fine pigeon. She lived in a nest close to a kitchen. The cooks of the kitchen liked her a lot and often gave her grain to eat. She liked the place a lot and lived happily.

One day, a crow saw the pigeon getting food from the kitchen. The crow made friendship with the pigeon and made the pigeon share the nest with him.



The pigeon then told the crow that they could spend time together and talk about politics, religion, etc., but the crow had to look for his own food.

The crow became very sad as he wanted the pigeon to share her food with him. The crow wanted to eat meat, but pigeon got only grains from the kitchen.



The crow did not want to wait anymore. He decided to visit the kitchen directly for the food. One day, he silently went down the chimney and entered the kitchen. He could smell a fish being cooked in the pan.



The crow was greedy and he decided to try the fish. But, when he was trying to do that a spoon fell, which created a lot of noise. The noise alerted one of the cooks. The cook came from the next room. He caught hold of the crow and killed him.



So, now you know how greed can make someone act foolishly.

Jataka Tales



'Classic Tales', an accumulation of richly illustrated tales for children from past and present, consists of the most famous and enthralling stories of all times, which have been told to children for years.



OUR MISSION

We believe that it is every child's right to be able to read exciting stories. Currently 200 million children in India do not have access to stories because they cannot afford to buy books. This meticulously handpicked and colourfully illustrated collection ranges from hilarious adventures to tales that impart moral values. It is our vision to provide heartwarming stories from India and the world at large, to every child at the minimum possible price so that every bedtime has a story book to go with it.

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